

PUBLIC NOTICE

PERMIT APPLICATION: NRS 05.230

APPLICANT: Sharon Baptist Church
David Alexander, Administrator
3514 Cravens Road
Savannah, Tenn. 38372
731-607-6325

LOCATION: Wetlands adjacent to an unnamed tributary to Horse Creek, Sharon Baptist Church, Cravens Road, Savannah, Hardin County, 35.2782 °N, -88.2291 °W

WATERSHED DESCRIPTION: The wetlands are located along an unnamed tributary to Horse Creek and part of the Lower Tennessee-Beech watershed (HUC TN 0604001). The project site is located adjacent to the existing Sharon Baptist Church and the immediate area is under agricultural and residential use. The wetlands are partially scrub-shrub (rush dominated) and part forested (Willow oak dominated). The existing stream extends over 800 linear feet across the project property with a variable channel width and depth, a clay-soil substrate, and over half of the channel has no canopy. The tier status of the project area wetlands is currently being determined. (Photos of the site are included on the Internet version of this notice at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/wpcppo/arap>)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to fill 3.25 acres of jurisdictional wetlands for the expansion of the church and its associated school. The expansion will also require the relocation and encapsulation of the stream. The relocated channel will be approximately 820 linear feet, including two road crossings totaling approximately 75 linear feet. The proposed new stream will mimic the existing stream in width and depth. Over 600 linear feet of the relocated stream will have a 40-foot riparian corridor planted with willow oak and other native trees. The wetland impacts will be mitigated within the same HUC 8 watershed on two different sites. Site 1 will involve the creation of 5.3 acres of wetlands (at a 4:1 ratio) and the enhancement of 6.0 acres (at a 5:1 ratio). The creation site will involve the restoration of surface flow to a portion of the original stream channel. The site will be excavated down to match contours of existing adjacent wetlands. The applicant proposes to plant bald cypress, water oak, willow oak and swamp white oak seedlings at a rate of 400 stems and acre. The enhancement site is 6.0 acres of previously clear-cut wetlands. The enhancement will involve plugging or berming the relocated channel that borders the property. The site will also be planted with oak species at a rate of 200 stems an acre. The second mitigation site will be preservation of 7.1 acres (at a 10:1 ratio) of a site along Steele Creek. The site is dominated by black willow, sweetgum, sycamore, green ash, American elm, alder, red maple, and blue beech. All 18.4 acres of the mitigation sites will be placed under perpetual protection, such as a deed of restrictions. Mitigation sites will be monitored for five years and annual reports will be submitted to the Corps of Engineers and TDEC.

PERMIT COORDINATOR: Juliana W. Kyzar

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: Hookers Bend 23SW, Milledgeville 12SE, and Savannah 24 NW



Photo 1: Stream channel within wetlands. Photo by JWK



Photo 2: Upstream portion of stream channel, winter 2004. Photo provided by USACE



Photo 2: Wetland. Photo by JWK

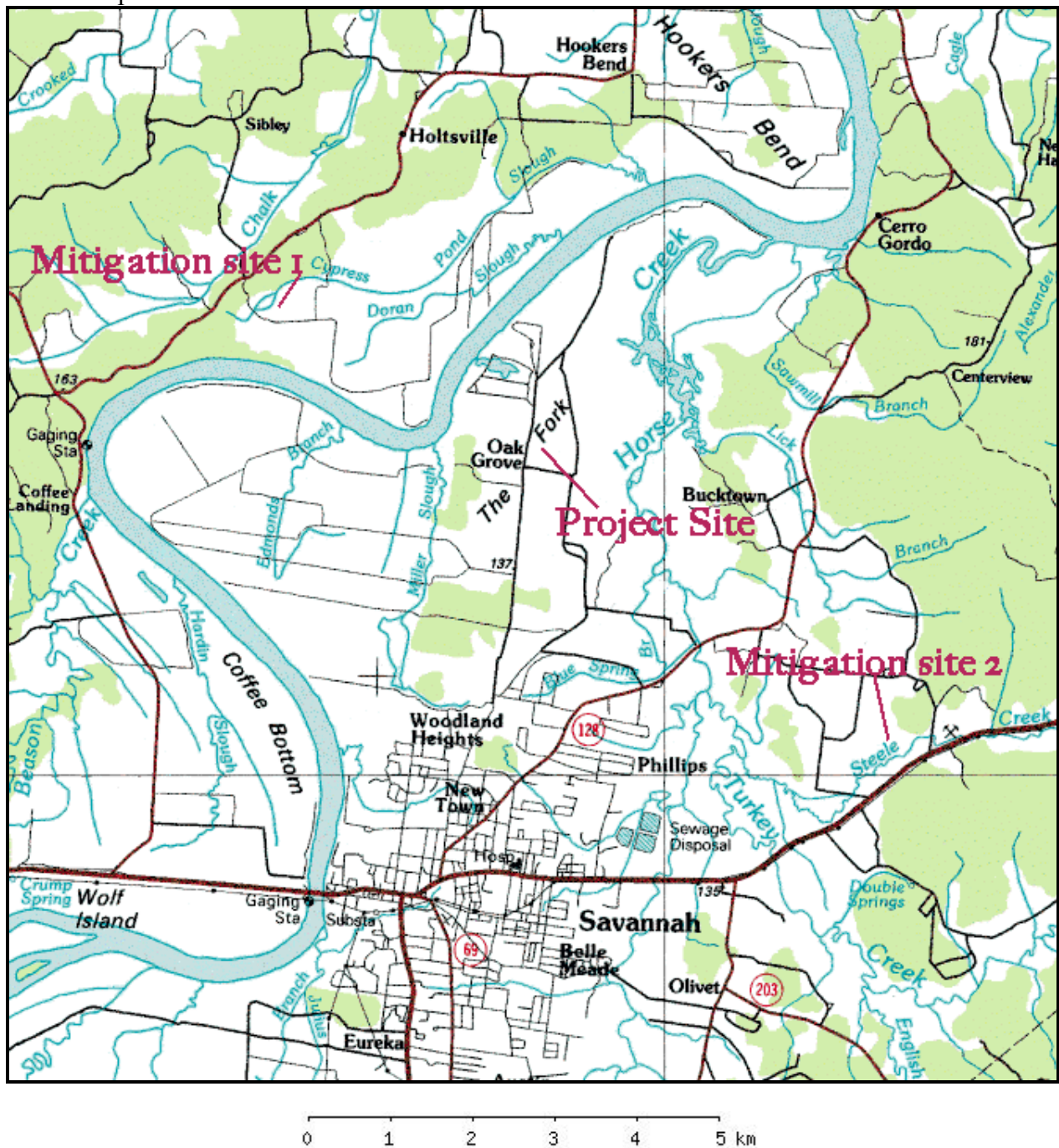


Figure 1: Topographic map showing impact area and mitigation sites.

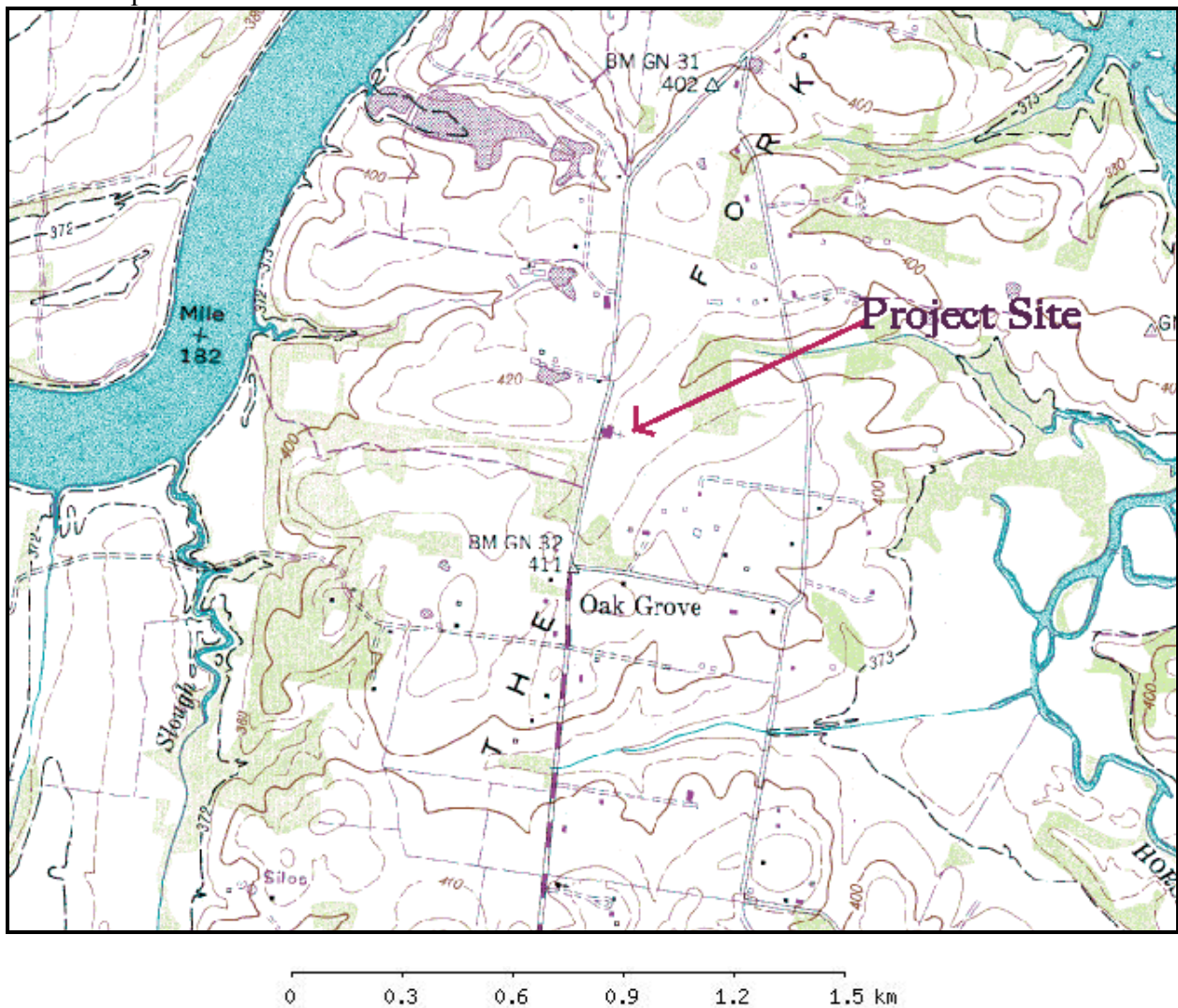


Figure 2: 7.5-minute topographic map (Hooker's Bend Quad) with impact site indicated.

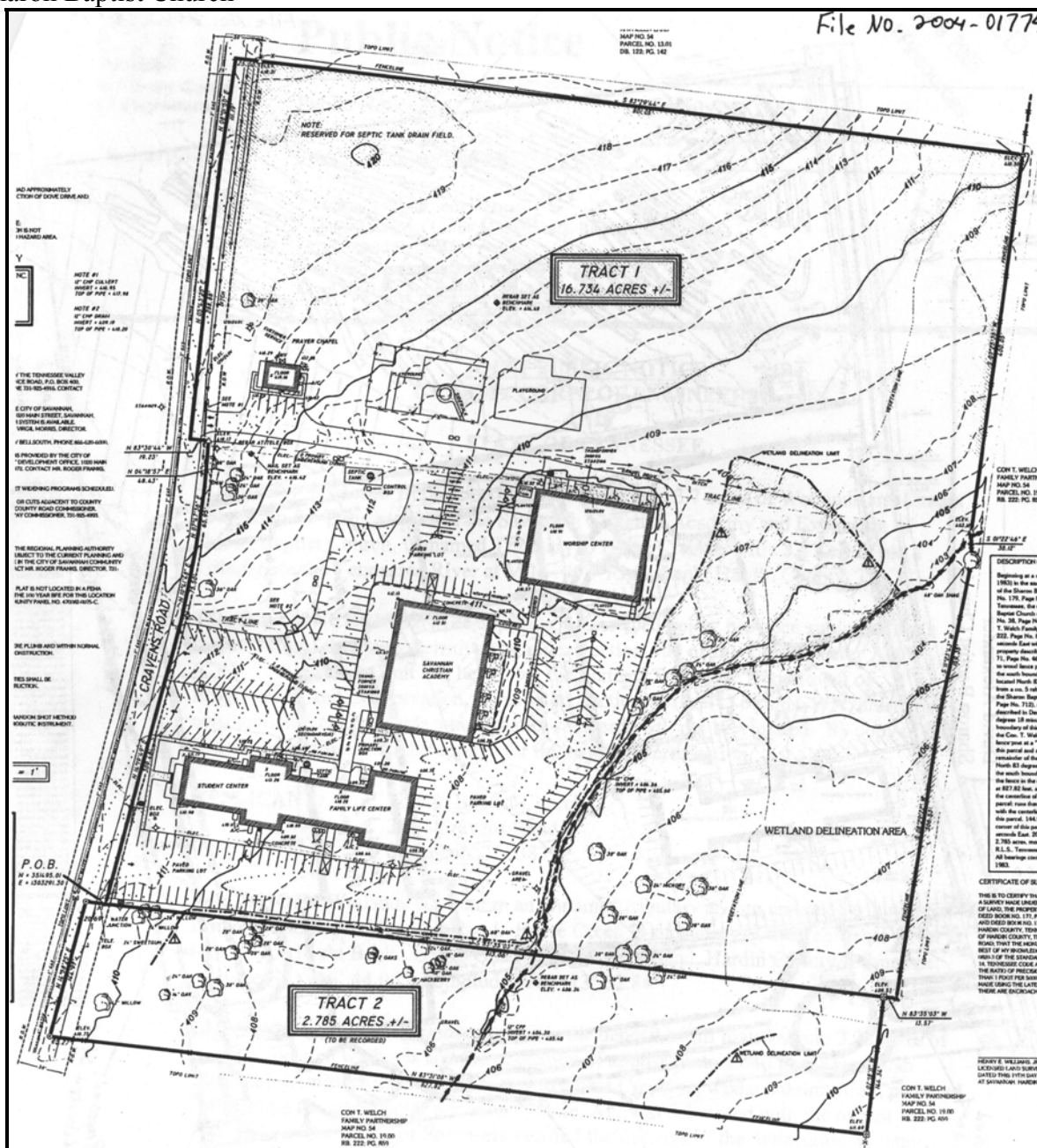


Figure 3: Existing site plan view

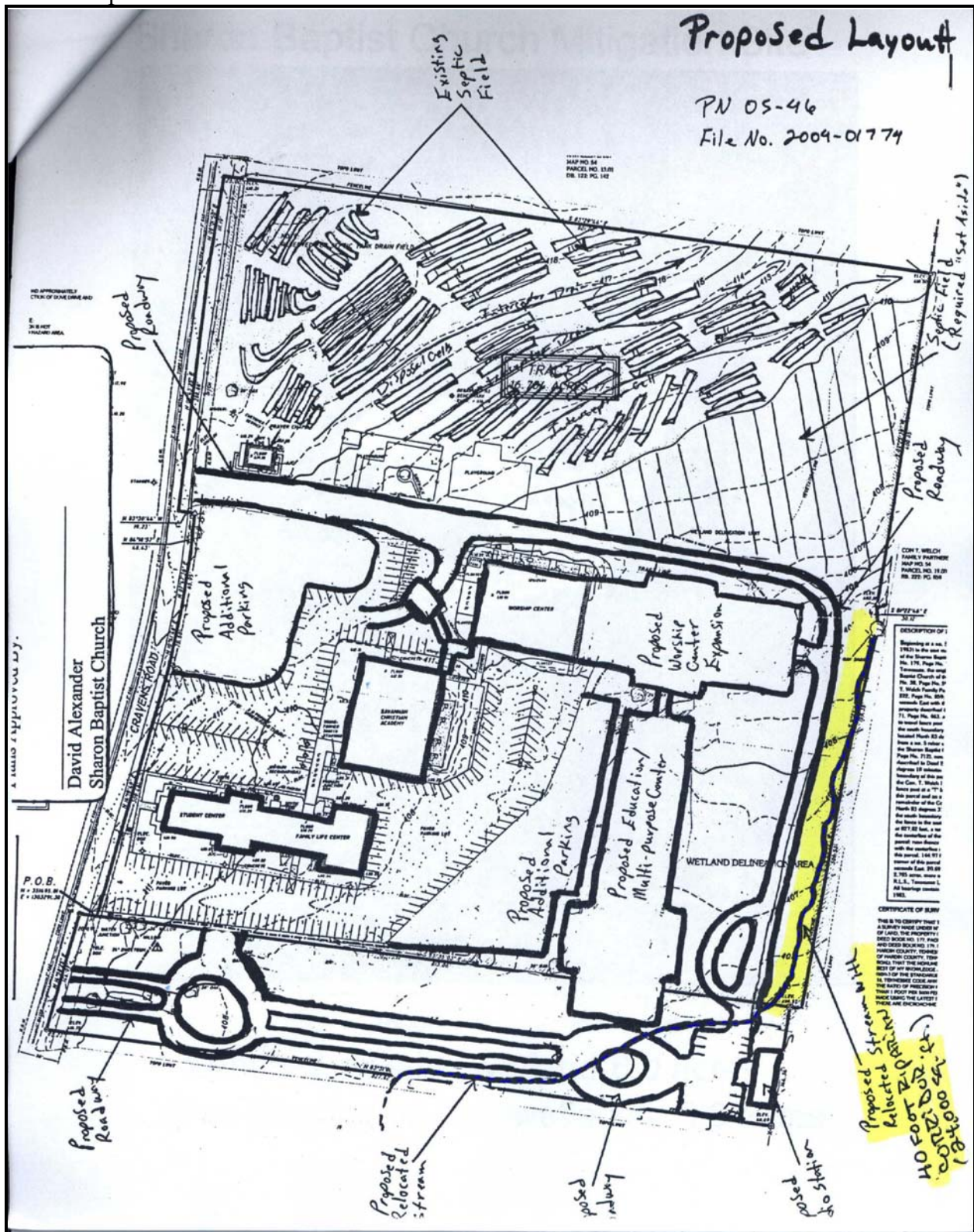


Figure 4: Proposed site plan view (streets and parking NTS).



Figure 5: Wetland mitigation site 1, Cypress Pond Slough. 5.3 acres creation, 6.0 acres enhancement.



Figure 6: Wetland mitigation site 2, Steele Creek area. Preservation only.